

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 006476
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02
DODE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSTEVEN
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
ARA/ECA/A:JBUMPUS
-----109765 102230Z /75

O 102202Z JAN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 006476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, AR, CI

SUBJECT: BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO DEPT SPOKES-
MAN FOR NOON BRIEFING ON 1/10/78:

ARGENTINA: NAVAL UNITS TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC
(BEAGLE CHANNEL REGION)

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS OF THE MOVEMENT OF
ARGENTINE NAVY SHIPS TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC?

A. NOT REALLY. WE HAVE READ PRESS REPORTS OF SHIP MOVE-
MENTS AND ARE OF COURSE AWARE OF THE SITUATION REGARDING
THE BEAGLE CHANNEL. WE HOPE THAT CHILE AND ARGENTINA
WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SETTLE-
MENT OF THE ISSUE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 006476

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REPORTS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS?

A. WE HAVE SEEN SPECULATION BUT HAVE NO SPECIFIC
CONFIRMATION AND IN ANY EVENT WE EXPECT THAT THE PARTIES
WOULD CERTAINLY TREAT THE ISSUE IN A PEACEABLE MANNER.

Q. DO YOU SEE ANY DANGER OF WAR?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF NOON BRIEFING ON 1/10/78:

Q. HODDING, CAN YOU TELL ME THE REACTION ON THE MILITARY SITUATION DEVELOPING BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA.

A. WE HAVE SEEN SOME STORIES. I WOULD NOT PRETEND THAT WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL MORE INFORMATION THAN YOU DO. I DON'T HAVE A PARTICULAR COMMENT ON THAT. BASICALLY, WELL, I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR COMMENT ON IT AT ALL. I THOUGHT PERHAPS THERE WAS SOMETHING, BUT AT THIS POINT WE ARE SIMPLY WATCHING THE SITUATION.

Q. LET ME FOLLOW UP.

A. YES.

Q. THERE WAS A MEETING, I UNDERSTAND, YESTERDAY BY A COMPETENT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ON THIS SUBJECT.

WHAT WAS THE MEETING FOR? WHAT BECAME OF THE MEETING?

A. I AM SORRY. WOULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 006476

Q. YES.

THERE WAS A MEETING YESTERDAY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT. THEY DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING WAS?

A. NO.

YOU ARE IN THE POSITION ACTUALLY OF TELLING ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW ABOUT. I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW.

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPORT ABOUT MOVEMENT OF ARGENTINE NAVAL UNITS TOWARDS THE BEAGLE STRAIT AREA?

A. THAT'S SORT OF THE SAME BASIC QUESTION AGAIN. THE ANSWER IS THAT WHILE WE HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS AND ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS A SITUATION PARTICULARLY IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL, WE REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER IN THE

WAY OF SPECULATION. WE HOPE, OBVIOUSLY, THAT CHILE AND ARGENTINA ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS, OR AT ANY RATE WORK OUT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY BASIS.

LET ME JUST SAY, WE ARE NOT OVER-ENDOWED WITH INFORMATION OF A SPECIFIC NATURE ON THIS SUBJECT.

FRANCOIS WAS NEXT. OH, O.K.

Q. I HAVE A FOLLOW-UP. WELL, IS NOT THE UNITED STATES PARTY TO THE RIO TREATY?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 006476

A. YES, WE ARE.

Q. IS NOT THE UNITED STATES BOUND TO BE SURE THAT PEACE IS NOT BREAKING IN --

A. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IT, AND WE WILL, OBVIOUSLY, DO ANYTHING WE CAN TO HELP, IF WE ARE CALLED UPON. BUT AT THIS POINT, ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT WE REALLY ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPECULATE ON THE SITUATION RIGHT NOW.

Q. HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY ACTION SO FAR?

A. I KNOW OF NONE SO FAR. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE006476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSTEVEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-0402
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780179/aaaacpav.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 189feae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3798080
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, AR, CI
To: SANTIAGO BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/189feae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014